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change, 14th street, bet. Penn. ave. and F street.

Japan and Mexico have snubbed the

United States, but Guatemala has not

yet been heard from.

Whatever else may be said of Representa-

tive Springer, it must be admitted

that he is an agile and adjustable

statesman.

It is to be hoped Secretary Gresham

will not offer to mediate between the

Hazaras and the Afghans, who are

quarrelling in central Afghanistan. It

would be so humiliating to be snubbed

by them, too.

Snubbed again, and no wonder. The

present administration has shown so

little ability in the management of this

country's affairs that other nations nat-

urally object to its proposed interference

in their little difficulties.

The action yesterday of the House

committee on banking and currency and

the Senate committee on finance does not

encourage the hope of an early agree-

ment on a measure which can pass both

houses. There are too many financial

cranks in Congress for the country's

good.

In some respects this government is

less responsive to popular opinion than

any other civilized government in the

world. Proof of this is found in the

fact that after his recent humiliating

defeat in Congress and the almost in-

digestant rejection of his pet measure,

Secretary Carlisle still remains at the

head of the Treasury Department.

The snub which Secretary Gresham re-

ceived from Japan did not prevent him

from subjecting the government to an

other rebuff from Mexico. Before offer-

ing the services of the United States as

a mediator between Mexico and Guate-

mal he should have known that that is

just what Guatemala has been urging

and Mexico rejecting for years past.

Besides, he might have seen that Mexi-

co's temper was up, and that her last

demand on Guatemala was too pre-mat-

ure to admit of intervention. His offer

was untimely, and evidently has not

been well received in Mexico. The ad-

ministration tries to let itself down easily

by informing the country that Mexi-

co's refusal of its offer was couched in

"flattering terms."

All honor to the greenback for what

it has done and been. It has a noble

and patriotic record. It had a great

mission, and it performed it well. But

the time has come when it should be

buried with the honors of war and amid

the respectful plaudits of a grateful peo-

ple. The time has come when the

greenback should be relieved from duty,

redeemed and permanently retired. Un-

less this is done there is danger that by

continued pretensions to the unworthy

purpose of depleting the gold reserve,

and by being constantly used as a pre-

text to a sound currency, its grand rec-

ord in the past may be obliterated and

its patriotic service forgotten. The

greenback deserves honorable retire-

ment, and it cannot come too soon.

The President made a good point in

his special message when he reminded

those who oppose the issuance of inter-

est-bearing bonds to redeem the non-

interest-bearing gold tender notes that

these same notes have already burdened

us with a large load of interest, which

is still accumulating. "The aggregate

interest on the original issue of bonds,"

said the President, "the proceeds of

which in gold constituted the reserve

for the payment of these notes,

amounted to \$70,326,250 on Jan. 1, 1895,

and the annual charge for interest on

these bonds and those issued for the

same purpose during the last year will

be \$9,145,000, dating from Jan. 1, 1895."

Thus it appears that although green-

backs do not bear interest themselves,

they have been the means of adding

materially to the interest account of the

government.

A reading of the report of the Mer-

ritt investigating committee leaves an

impression of inconclusiveness. It shows

that the investigation disclosed material

errors of judgment in some cases and

irregularities and negligence in others,

but it throws upon the Mayor the onus

of locating the responsibility. If the

committee discovered who were respon-

sible for these errors or neglect of duty

it should have stated who the delin-

quent officials were, and if it did not

make this discovery the investigation

was incomplete. To have made the dis-

covery and not have located the respon-

sibility looks like an attempt to evade

an unpleasant duty or perhaps to avoid

hurting somebody's feelings. It re-

mains to be seen how the Mayor will

locate the responsibility which the com-

mittee has left hanging in the air.

It is worthy of remark that all the

so-called restrictive legislation in re-

gard to building and loan associations

that is proposed is really hostile legis-

lation. Under the pretense of protect-

ing the business or somehow making it

safer and more legitimate, it would

really cripple the business. That is

something the Legislature ought to be

exceedingly careful not to do. These

associations are a very important part

of our country's structure. In the absence

of savings banks they serve to accumu-

late the savings of a large number of

people, and their benefits in the way of

encouraging thrift and the acquisition of

homes are beyond all computation. The

Journal fails to discover any popular

demand for restrictive legislation re-

garding them, and before doing any-

thing in that line the Legislature should

be very sure that interested parties are

not trying to use it to cripple a great

and growing business.

**PARTY PLEDGES MUST BE RE-**

**DEEMED.**

If there are two questions upon which

more than all parties the Republican

party in Indiana is likely and unqualifi-

cally committed to a certain line of ac-

tion, they are the question of apportion-

ment and that of taking the manage-

ment and conduct of the State institu-

tions out of partisan politics. By plat-

form after platform, by repeated cam-

paigns, by reiterated expressions of Re-

publican papers and speakers, in short

by every species of committal known in

politics, the party has pledged itself to

enact a fair apportionment and to reor-

ganize the State institutions on a non-

partisan basis. This has been the posi-

tion of the party for years past, when

it had no possible chance of making its

promises good. Now that it has a

chance it is to the test. The people are wait-

ing to see if it means what it said. After

being appealed to year after year to

give the Republican party a chance to

institute these needed reforms, to re-

place the infamous gerrymander with a

fair apportionment and to lift the institu-

tions out of the mire of party polit-

ics and place them on solid nonpartisan

ground, the people at last took the party

at its word. Now they are waiting to

see if it will make its words good. They

are waiting to see if it says one thing

and means another; if it makes prom-

ises only to break them; if it is a re-

form party in defeat and a spoils party

in success. In short, they are waiting to

see whether it is a party of principle or

a party of repudiation.

It is to be hoped that the Republican

majority in the Legislature, on whom

has devolved the duty of redeeming the

party pledges, fully appreciate the re-

sponsibility which it involves. They

should understand that failure to come

fully up to the measure of public ex-

pectation in these regards will involve

not merely stultification, but humili-

ation and disgrace for the party. If the

Legislature fails to enact apportion-

ments, legislative and congressional, so

fair that even Democrats will be com-

pelled to admit their fairness, and if it

fails to provide for placing the State

institutions under nonpartisan control,

the Republican party will have dis-

appointed public expectation. The duty

is one that cannot be shirked or juggled

with. No half easy compliance with

the party pledges, no legislative trick-

ery, no attempt to accomplish ulterior

results by indirect means, no paltering

in a double sense, no attempt to fool

the people will do. There must be a

full, complete and honest compliance

with the party pledges.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD INQUIRY.**

The Indianapolis School Board will be

investigated by a legislative committee,

with a view, presumably, to finding out

whether it has been conducting its affairs

in a legitimate way and for the best

interests of the city. This board is,

in a certain sense, a law unto itself.

It has the entire and exclusive control

of the school fund, it controls the spe-

cial tax levy, it has the power to borrow

money for school purposes, and is, in

short, an independent organization. Un-

til within a very recent period its busi-

ness had been so managed as to meet

with general approval. It has been al-

most uniformly composed of men who

had public confidence, and who gave

every evidence of an anxiety to work

for the best interests of the community.

If occasional mistakes were made they

were regarded as mere errors in judg-

ment, and criticism commonly resulted

in preventing repetitions of the blun-

ders. But of late this disposition has

altered. The board has taken an at-

titude of the automatic powers to make

purchases and create debts in defiance

of public sentiment and in disregard of

the opinions of taxpayers and business

men as to the financial wisdom of their

acts. Its high-handed manner of pro-

cedure has created a distrust of its ab-

ility to manage the important matters in

its charge. There is also a suspicion that

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